(c) Rise in prices of food articles such as wheat, pulses, edible oils, potato and onion is mainly owing to inadequate supplies in relation to demand. Demand for these commodities is growing on account of increase in population and income. Additional factors *viz.,* changes in consumption pattern and hardening of international prices also have an impact on the domestic prices of these commodities.

(d) Due to increase in prices of essential commodities during the initial months of the year 2006-07, the Government has taken a series of measures including banning of export, permitting import at zero duty of some commodities such as wheat and pulses and reduction in import duty of edible oils. These steps have been taken mainly to increase the overall availability of essential commodities within the country and contain the prices. As a result of these measures, rise in prices of some of the essential commodities has been contained. Sugar prices have declined significantly during last year mainly due to increase in production. The Government is regularly monitoring the prices of essential commodities at high level of meetings of CoS, CCP and Cabinet.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The Government would not allow price rise in essential commodities to go out of control by taking timely steps as indicated above.

Offtake of wheat

62. SHRI K. E. ISMAIL:
SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the offtake of wheat allotted for Public Distribution System (PDS) has been very low during 2006-07;

(b) if so, the details of the allotment and offtake of wheat under PDS for 2006-07 and 2007-08, so far, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for poor of ftake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The offtake of wheat under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during the year 2006-07 was 102.52 lakh tons as against the allocation of 144.19 which is 71% of the allocation made.

(b) The State-wise allocation and offtake of wheat under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for the year 2006-07 and 2007-08 upto June 2007 is given the Statement *(See* below).

(c) Different reasons may contribute to low offtake of foodgrains in various States/ UTs such as local production and availability of foodgrains, resources crunch faced by States/UTs, narrow difference between prevalent market prices and issue prices under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS), local food preferences of people, at times non-availability of railway rakes for movement, etc. Further, as TPDS allocation of foodgrains meets about half of the foodgrains (cereals) requirements of families, to meet their balance requirements in addition to TPDS offtake, the families mobilize foodgrains from other sources as well.

Statement

Allocation and Offtake of Wheat for the Year 2006-2007 and 2007-08 (upto June, 07) Under TPDS

(In 000 tonnes)

SI. No.	States/UTs	2006-07 Allotment	2006-07 Offtake	2007-08 (Upto June, 07) Allotment	2007-08 (Upto June, 07) Offtake
1	AP	81.152	55.593	20.262	8.088
2	Aru. P.	11.59	5.135	3.258	021
3	Assam	254.226'	250.049	65.091	62.174
4	Bihar	1132.097	494.652	223.038	119.077
5	Chhattisgarh	120.65	55.977	17.142	11.343
6	Delhi	486.296	400.943	118.53	97.607
7	Goa	11.532	5.57	2.103	1.931
8	Gujrat	824.374	468.146	144.456	104.233
9	Haryana	463.72	248.722	92.241	63.402
10	HP	172.683	178.169	60.504	50.916
11	J&K	243.26	228.773	66.408	63.923
12	Jharkhand	348.394	285.971	85.755	70.835
13	Karnataka	367.874	298.504	95.184	69.796
14	Kerala	330.183	281.975	80.22	65.857
15	MP.	1614.274	1348.314	352.287	312.118
16	Maharashtra	2071.718	1381.121	397.974	291.781
17	Manipur	11.588	8.236	2.718	1.543
18	Meghalaya	7.696	7.29	2.19	1.626
19	Mizoram	10.36	8.988	2.772	1.882
20	Nagaland	34.714	34.186	9.048	8.691
21	Orissa	155.734	132.29	35.379	31.268
22	Punjab	353.032	118.312	42.366	17.982
23	Rajasthan	1335.72	915.414	270.312	233.865
24	Sikkim	5.35	5.381	1.635	1.335
25	Tamilnadu	95.58	90.18	30.099	23.847
26	Tripura	26.96	21.474	6.411	5.261
27	U.P	2080.878	1497.246	388.407	384.464
28	Uttranchal	143.302	128.276	58.146	36.561
29	West Bengal	1603.714	1290.941	379.542	344.339
30	A&N Islands	5.946	4.7	1.887	1.126
31	Chandigarh	9.39	0	0.252	0.583
32	D & N Haveli	1.596	0.36	0.582	0
33	Daman & Diu	0.728	0.12	0.186	0.01
34	Lakshadweep	0.433	0.05	0.15	0
35	Pondicherry	2.05	1.41	0.45	028
	TOTAL:	14,418.79	10,252.47	3,056.99	2,487.95